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EPA ANNOUNCES PUBLIC MEETING ON NEW BEDFORD HARBOR SUPERFUND SITE

BOSTON --- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Quality Engineering (DEQE) will hold a public informational meeting to explain current studies and future plans to address contamination at the New Bedford Harbor Superfund site in New Bedford, Massachusetts.

EPA, DEQE and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will explain current studies underway for the Acushnet River Estuary and the Harbor on April 30, 1987 at 7:30 PM at the Whaler Inn on Hathaway Road in New Bedford. The meeting will be held in Room "C." A translator will be present at the meeting to translate questions and answers in Portuguese.

Sediments in New Bedford Harbor are contaminated primarily with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and heavy metals. The areas of highest contaminant concentration are located primarily in the Acushnet River Estuary, North of the Coggeshall Street Bridge. The current studies build on previously developed information to further evaluate cleanup alternatives. These include an overall feasibility study (FS) and a dredging and disposal study which will provide more detailed information of the feasibility and potential impacts of dredging and disposal. These studies will be included in the overall FS report, which will be available for public review and comment.

A risk assessment is underway to determine the potential risks to public health and the environment which could result from exposure to contaminants at the site. As another part of the FS, EPA & DEOE are conducting a pilot study in a small area of the estuary. This pilot study would be used to verify laboratory results taken from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredging and disposal study.

While these studies are underway, EPA continues enforcement action seeking to recover past and future costs for cleanup of the New Bedford Harbor site.

For more information on the studies underway at the New Bedford site, see the New Bedford Project Management Plan, available for public inspection at:

Department of Public Health,
Office of Environmental Education and Information
46-R Foster Street
Foster Hill Place
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740
Attn: Robert Kalaghan
(617) 996-8201

Millicent Library
45 Center Street
Fairhaven, MA 02719
Carolyn Longworth, Library Director
(617) 992-5342

Hours: 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM Monday, Wednesday
& Friday

9:00 AM - 6:00 PM Tuesday, Thursday
& Saturday

New Bedford Free Public Library
Risa Goldberg,
Head of Reference Section
613 Pleasant Street
New Bedford, MA 02740
(617) 999-6291

Hours: 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM Monday - Thursday

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Friday and Saturday

Fairhaven Board of Health
Town Hall
Center Street
Fairhaven, MA 02719
(617) 997-0382

Hours: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM Monday - Friday

The plan includes a description of the site; EPA's objectives in selecting and implementing the cleanup alternatives that will best protect public health, welfare and the environment; and project schedules, tasks, and budgets.